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Comments on latest draft of the history-social science framework

Dear Members of the Commission and Dr. Adams,

The Federation of Jain Associations In North America (JAINA) and Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC) would like to submit comments on the latest draft of the history-social science framework.

JAINA was established in 1981, and has grown from its initial membership of four Jain centers to sixty seven centers across US, representing over 150,000 Jains. JAINA is the sole organization representing all Jains in North America irrespective of their language, origin and tradition. California is a home to two large Jain centers incorporating temples with authentic architecture as well as several smaller Jain centers. The Jain Center of Northern California (JCNC) represents over 7000 Jains in the San Francisco Bay Area. The center has seen an explosive growth over last two decades, and its 24000 sqft facility in Milpitas, CA, houses sacred prayer space, auditorium, dining hall, and classrooms.

We reviewed the latest draft of the history-social science frameworks and found that the information on Jainism is described in just two sentences (lines 702 to 705). Although what is presented is accurate, it does omit describing core tenet of the Jain philosophy, Ahimsa (reverence for all life), and its contribution to the culture in India in particular and world in general. Jain philosophy is as relevant today as it was 2500 years ago, evidenced by “nonviolent movement” of Mohandas Gandhi and its further adoption by world leaders like Rev. martin Luther King, Jr, Cesar Chavez and Nelson Mandela.

We urge the commission to incorporate following paragraph replacing the lines 702-705.

".....and Southeast Asia. In India, Jainism, a religion with central tenet of *ahimsa*, or nonviolence, paralleled the rise of Buddhism. The Jain idea of nonviolence is uniquely expansive, extending to one's thoughts, speech and actions, and incorporates causing no hurt through these modes toward any living being. The principle of Ahimsa emanates from "Reverence for all Life", respecting right of every living being to live a peaceful life. Among other core practices are - philosophical pluralism, non-acquisitiveness, ecological harmony, compassion toward all, and universal forgiveness. Ahimsa has continued to play a role in modern India, notably in Mohandas Gandhi's nonviolent resistance, and was further adopted by leaders such as Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr, Cesar Chavez, Nelson Mandela.

For your reference, we list the content of current draft in the framework below:

“.....and Southeast Asia. In India, Jainism, a religion that encouraged the idea of *ahimsa*, or nonviolence, paralleled the rise of Buddhism. It has continued to play a role in modern India, notably in Mohandas Gandhi’s ideas of nonviolent disobedience.”

This expanded description will result in awareness and better understanding of Jain idea of Ahimsa and its potential in creating a more peaceful and harmonious society.

With best Regards,

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